

BOOK REVIEWS

The Tarantula. William J. Baerg. University of Kansas Press, Lawrence, 88 pp., photographs and figs. 1958., price \$3.00.

The recent reprinting of this pleasantly unpretentious little book justifies a belated review. Originally published by the University of Kansas Press nearly a decade ago, it stands as a reminder to a rather more than modest host of lay readers—and not a few of us who are professional arachnologists—that the scope and depth of Dr. Baerg's long acquaintance with this fascinating group of spiders is still unsurpassed in America. It is not a monograph on the family Aviculariidae, a surprisingly great assemblage of species (some 600 according to a still rather primitive taxonomy), nor would the author make claim to its being an exhaustive treatment of the life history and habits of any one of the modest fraction of the American species known personally to him. In fact, he seems to avoid pedantic terminology, for example, to the extent that it is often difficult to determine just what species he is talking about. Occasionally one senses a superficiality and wishes for further details or more precise documentation. However, this is to quibble out of proportion to the scope and intent of this book, which, like a thin volume of poems, invites light browsing—or careful study.

The casual browser's eye is caught by the striking photograph on the dust jacket of the big golden-banded Mexican *Aphonopelma*, and he is likely soon to be caught up in the author's unabashed enthusiasm for tarantulas. It is to be hoped that more than a few such readers will be left with some appreciation of a grossly misunderstood group of animals.

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The Beetles of the Pacific Northwest. Part IV: Macroductyles, Palpicornes, and Heteromera. Melville H. Hatch, with David V. (sic) Miller, David V. McCorkle, Floyd Werner and Dennis W. Boddy. University of Washington Press, Seattle. Univ. of Washington Publ. in Biol., **16**, viii + 268, 1965.

The fourth volume of Professor Hatch's series on the beetle fauna of the Pacific Northwest (Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia) covers a variety of the smaller families, including the polyphagous water beetles, the semi-aquatic beetles, and all of the heteromera, including the large family Tenebrionidae, in all, about 520 species. He has had the help of several collaborators to the extent that about half of the species are covered by others. The work continues to be a set of keys to the families, subfamilies, tribes, genera, and species of the area covered. The keys to the species also contain brief descriptions and notes on the distribution and habitats of the species. The book utilizes typewriter composition and is offset. It may be obtained either paper bound or with a cloth binding.

There are twenty-eight plates of illustrations, most of which are very well done. This should be very helpful to all who use this work. The technique of showing the deflected head detached is especially useful. Unfortunately, many of the new species are not illustrated.

A monumental task such as this cannot be free of errors. It is regrettable that Dr. Hatch has not referred to the more recent literature. His main concern has been to catalog the fauna of the area involved. This may have resulted in the description of species recently described elsewhere (e.g., the omission of reference to the recent monograph of the Heteroceridae, yet the description of two new species and the overlooking of two species recorded from the Pacific Northwest). It is too bad that some of the innovations in the work were not more carefully checked. For instance, his comments on the color forms of